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LATE ITEM**NIGERIA**

Lagos Radio this morning broadcast an announcement by Colonel Joseph Garba, head of the brigade of guards, in which he declared that the Nigerian armed forces have "decided to affect a change in the leadership of the federal military government," adding that General Gowon "from now" ceases to be head of government and commander in chief of the armed forces.

Garba also announced a dusk-to-dawn curfew, suspension of Nigerian Airways operations, and the closing of all Nigerian airports and borders.

Garba claimed "this has been a bloodless operation," suggesting that forces responsive to him were in control of at least Lagos itself and that the coup has been successful. He claimed that he was acting "in consultations with... colleagues," but there is as yet no information as to what units, if any, are acting in concert with the brigade of guards. Garba obviously has control of the Lagos radio station. The brigade of guards is the presidential bodyguard, an important unit stationed in the Lagos area.

The broadcast made no reference to the whereabouts of General Gowon. The General had previously announced that he would be attending the summit meeting of the Organization of African Unity, which is scheduled to open today in Kampala. He is probably out of the country. [REDACTED]

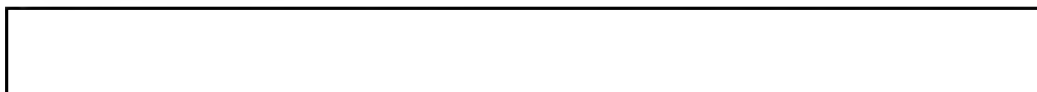
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TURKEY

The 11 Turkish teams that will take command today of five US-run installations in Turkey have been told that the suspension of operations at the installations will be continually monitored by the Turkish general staff.

A cabinet meeting today will evaluate the progress made toward implementing the government's decision to suspend operations and turn control of the installations to the Turkish army.

The tone of the instructions to the 11 teams is not harsh, but the instructions make clear that the Turks expect to have access to all areas of the installations. US officials in Turkey have begun destroying highly sensitive material. The Turkish general staff has confirmed that operations at the long-range navigation station at Kargaburun must be suspended. The Foreign Ministry said yesterday that the general staff did not believe Kargaburun directly served Turkey's national defense interests, or was essential to the well-being of US troops.

This is consistent with a comment made Sunday by the minister of interior, who said that activities would be continued at installations the general staff believed were needed and discontinued where they were not needed. For the time being, the US is not halting operations at Kargaburun.

The instructions to the Turkish teams do not take them beyond a transitional period. Ankara's longer range intentions may become clearer at a special meeting of the North Atlantic Council today in Brussels. The Turks have informed US officials that they will describe the nature of the measures they have taken against the installations and their prospects for the future.

Prime Minister Demirel is leaving the matter of retaliation in the hands of the Turkish general staff. [REDACTED]

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In Cyprus, Turkish Cypriot leaders are meeting today to consider measures against the US information-gathering installations in the Turkish Cypriot zone. These have been shut down since the Turkish invasion last summer. Senior Turkish Cypriot officials have hinted they may declare the Turkish Cypriot zone an independent state. Ankara has thus far opposed such a move. [REDACTED]

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ITALY

The central committee of the Italian Socialist Party over the weekend unanimously supported party chief De Martino's stand opposing any future national government that does not have "at least indirect" Communist support.

De Martino suggested that Communist abstention in a confidence vote on a new government might be an acceptable form for such support. If the Christian Democrats agree to such a formula, it would be seen in Italy as a first step toward broader collaboration with the Communists that could lead eventually to their actual participation in the national government. Socialist entry into the government was preceded by a similar arrangement in 1962.

The Communists have not commented officially on De Martino's proposal. In any event, they would want to avoid the appearance of tacitly condoning the same kind of government they attacked in the recent election campaign. They might agree to provide such indirect support if the Christian Democrats make some concessions—such as holding formalized consultations on the government's program—that would clearly recognize the Communists' potential as a partner in government.

The Socialist Party chief also won his party's backing for continuing efforts to maintain working relations with the Christian Democrats. With the exception of a small left-wing faction, the Socialists endorsed De Martino's rejection of any return at the national level to the "frontist" alliance with the Communists of the early postwar period.

Some Socialists have been talking about a revival of the "frontist" alternative, following last month's regional and local elections in which the Socialists and Communists came close to winning an absolute majority. Although the two parties govern together in many localities, De Martino—and the Communists—are still against trying it at the national level.

The Christian Democrats emerged in disarray from their national council meeting last week and are not yet in a position to respond authoritatively to the Socialists' demands. The lengthy and inconclusive internal battle waged by the Christian Democrats over a replacement for Fanfani—national council president Zaccagnini was tapped to serve temporarily—precluded any serious consideration of policy changes. In the coming weeks, moreover, the party will be preoccupied with trying to line up a majority of the factions behind a new leader in time for the Christian Democratic congress in the fall.

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The indecision at the top of the Christian Democratic Party has contributed to uncertainty among the party's local leaders and seems to be encouraging some to abandon their opposition to granting the Communists a more important role in government. That appears to be the case in the key northern region of Lombardy, where the new center-left government, led by the Christian Democrats, has solicited the "active cooperation" of the local Communists.

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PORTUGAL

Portuguese Socialist Party leader Mario Soares yesterday called again for a "government of national salvation" to replace the ruling three-man junta in Lisbon.

At a news conference, Soares said that the government must be built around a noncontroversial figure capable of rallying popular support. He was referring to President Costa Gomes. On Sunday the Socialists had called on the President to bring together the various political parties and factions in the Armed Forces Movement to construct a broadly based government. Soares also made a hard-hitting attack against Prime Minister Goncalves and warned of the danger of a dictatorship of "one group" or one man.

Goncalves is expected to announce the membership of the new provisional cabinet shortly after General Otelo de Carvalho, who with Costa Gomes and Goncalves make up the triumvirate, returns from Cuba on Wednesday. The US embassy believes that Otelo will also serve as one of two vice prime ministers and that the ministers and state secretaries will come from the ranks of leftist "non-party technicians."

The uncertain situation in the country led to reports yesterday that President Costa Gomes would not attend the European security conference summit meeting in Helsinki. Last night, however, Radio Lisbon reported that Costa Gomes and his delegation will depart for Helsinki on Thursday. [REDACTED]

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PANAMA

The Torrijos government is having considerable success securing commitments of public support for its canal negotiating policies.

An important endorsement was given on July 18 by the National Assembly. After listening to explanations of the government's objectives and strategy by several officials involved in the treaty negotiations, the Assembly passed a resolution giving General Torrijos an expression of confidence and wide latitude to explore several options to further Panama's cause.

These options include: establishing diplomatic relations with all nations, the USSR and China were specifically mentioned; joining the nonaligned movement at its meeting next month in Lima; inscribing the canal issue on the agenda of the UN General Assembly this fall; working to secure commitments of support from all legislatures in the hemisphere; exploring the possibility of convening a conference of Latin American army chiefs to consider concerted actions within the context of UN pronouncements to end the "colonialist" situation in Panama.

The statements by the officials, as well as the Assembly resolution, reconfirmed the government's intention to continue to follow the path of negotiations. At the same time, however, the declarations were obviously intended to assure the public that Torrijos is zealously protecting Panama's basic interests and that he would never surrender these to get a treaty.

The negotiators stressed, for example, that Panama has to gain control of the canal by the year 2000 and that Panama and the US remain far apart on some key issues, such as the amount of land and water that would be transferred to Panama at the outset of a treaty.

Although these statements probably do reinforce Torrijos' nationalist credentials and give him ammunition to use against his domestic critics, they also could complicate the job of the Panamanian negotiators. Now that positions attributed to Panama and the US have been put on the public record, it will be hard for the Panamanians to make compromises on these issues. At the same time, the negotiators, by stressing the complexity of the negotiations and the fact that the two sides have wide differences on certain issues, appeared to be signaling to the public that a new treaty is not likely to be achieved soon.

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LAOS

The communists are quietly consolidating their control and eliminating any possibility of resistance.

Fragmentary reporting from the countryside suggests the communists are tightening restrictions on both international and internal travel and imposing other population controls. Local administrators seem to be looking more toward Sam Neua than Vientiane for direction. Little resistance to these measures has been reported.

The Lao are in the midst of an extensive reshuffling of their military forces. All non-communist troops are being disarmed and are being integrated with the Pathet Lao into a new national army. The continuing departure from Laos of non-communist officers of all ranks, however, has ensured overwhelming Pathet Lao dominance of the military.

The plan is to trim the armed forces gradually to about 30,000 combat troops. Half will be Pathet Lao, with the remaining positions expected to be filled by those non-communists who have accepted the new realities. The reorganization is supposed to take from a few months to over a year.

Officials in each of the military regions reportedly are drawing up lists of non-communist troops who wish to be released from the army. Enough requests will eventually be approved to bring the total strength of the new national army to about 30,000. In many cases, soldiers are being allowed simply to leave their units and return to their villages.

Senior non-communist officers are being kept busy attending communist political training sessions. Several of these officers, who had had particularly close ties with the US, were recently hustled out of Vientiane to Sam Neua, supposedly for further training. At least some of those generals fear they will never see Vientiane again.

Vientiane has been quiet for more than four weeks, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

The communists continue to hold two US embassy compounds in Vientiane. During discussions with the US charge on July 26, they offered no sign that they are ready to return the compounds or resolve other issues. [REDACTED]

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CAMBODIA

The leadership in Phnom Penh may be preparing to break out of its self-imposed isolation.

The foreign minister's recent month-long visit to Africa, Europe, and the Middle East may have been the first step toward solidifying old ties and paving the way for more formal dialogue with friendly governments. Efforts may also have been made to improve relations with Pakistan, whose Foreign Ministry recently indicated a willingness to provide Phnom Penh with humanitarian and economic assistance. On July 27, Phnom Penh radio apparently endorsed the recent border meeting between Cambodian and Thai representatives and stated that the "best atmosphere ever" for good relations between the two countries now exists.

In a possibly related development, moves to normalize the capital have been under way. According to Phnom Penh radio, several factories and the city's water and electric power plants have resumed operation. Most key highways leading into the city have been reopened, and repair work on the rail lines to Poipet and Kompong Som is nearing completion. Medical personnel from the provinces have been assigned to the city's hospitals. Limited numbers of personnel have been trickling into the capital, and nearly a quarter million refugees are being resettled in its outer environs.

As the security situation seemingly improves, the communists may modify their earlier policy of prohibiting the re-entry of foreigners into the country.

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Sihanouk intends to return within the next two months. Although his presence might only be temporary, approval by the Khmer communists would indicate an easing of concern over his trouble-making potential and increased confidence in their ability to control his activities.

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The new government, having achieved some measure of consolidation, may feel more inclined to deal with foreign governments. The need for humanitarian assistance to cope with food shortages may be a factor motivating Phnom Penh to take a more flexible stand. Moreover, in view of the upcoming 30th session of the UN in September, it may foresee the need to normalize relations with selected countries prior to taking the seat held by the former government.

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CHINA

Politburo member Li Te-sheng has apparently emerged politically unscathed from a recent gathering of China's entire military-region hierarchy in Peking.

Li, who is commander of the Shenyang Military Region, has apparently retained his provincial post and seat on the party Politburo, despite months of intensive political attack. He is the only regional commander to be identified in the Chinese news media since the meeting ended last week. In an obvious attempt to highlight Li's retention of his central and provincial positions, Peking New China News Agency on July 22 broadcast excerpts of a recent speech he delivered at a ceremony honoring a Shenyang military unit. The news report identified him as a member of the Politburo and a "responsible person of the Shenyang People's Liberation Army units."

Additional evidence that Li still wields considerable political influence has been reflected in the recent promotions of two of his former subordinates in the Anhwei Provincial Military District, Sung Pei-chang and Chang Wen-pi. During the past several weeks, Sung was named first secretary of the Anhwei party committee and chairman of the revolutionary committee. Chang was appointed to the post of Chekiang Military District commander. It is highly unlikely that long-time associates of Li would be appointed to these sensitive positions if their mentor's political future was in doubt.

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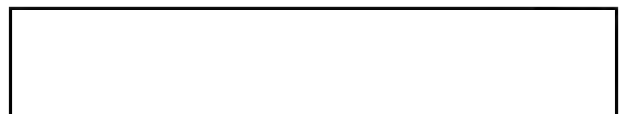
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